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Message Text

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47
ACTION NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 IGA-01 SP-02 EB-07 NSC-05 RSC-01

CIEP-02 TRSE-00 SS-15 STR-04 OMB-01 CEA-01 L-02 H-02

PA-02 PRS-01 AGR-10 EUR-12 COME-00 CIAE-00 INR-07

NSAE-00 /090 W
---------- 070037
R 061300Z JAN 75
FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6117
INFO USIA WASHDC

UNCLAS NEW DELHI 0218

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR, EAID, IN, US
SUBJECT: FURTHER INDIAN PRESS COVERAGE OF PL-480 NEGOTIATIONS

REF: NEW DELHI 0149

BEGIN SUMMARY: THE NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN INDIA AND THE U.S. ON A NEW PL-480 AGREEMENT ELICITED THREE COMMENTS IN TODAY'S NEWSPAPERS. END SUMMARY.

1. THE INDEPENDENT INDIAN EXPRESS HELD THAT IF ANY "HUMILIATION" IS INVOLVED, IT IS IN THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA'S "SEEKING OF CONCESSIONAL FOODGRAINS" AND "NOT IN THE TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF US PL-480 WHICH WERE KNOWN IN ADVANCE." IN FURTHER COMMENT, THE EDITORIAL STATED: " THE REPAYMENT OF THE SOVIET WHEAT LOAN CAN POSE A PROBLEM ONLY IF THE GOVERNMENT HAS LOST ALL CONFIDENCE IN ITS ABILITY TO ACHIEVE A SELF-RELIANT FOOD ECONOMY FOR A LONG TIME TO COME. THE MISMANAGEMENT OF THE FOOD ECONOMY HAS LANDED THE COUNTRY IN A HUMILIATING SITUATION ON ALL SIDES."

2. A FRONT-PAGE DESPATCH BY DELHI CORRESPONDENT IN THE CONSERVATIVE HINDU NOTED: " INDIA JUST DOES NOT SEE HOW IT CAN WRIGGLE OUT OF ITS COMMITMENT TO REPAY THE SOVIET LOAN TO AGREE TO
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THE PL-480 STIPULATION THAT THERE SHOULD BE NO FOOD EXPORTS

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FROM THIS COUNTRY. UNLESS SOME COMPROMISE IS WORKED OUT, PRESUMABLY DURING THE FORTHCOMING VISIT OF MR. C. SUBRAMANIAM, UNION FINANCE MINISTER, TO WASHINGTON... INDIA MAY HAVE TO GIVE UP THE PROPOSAL OF IMPORTING GRAIN UNDER THE PL-480 AGREEMENT."

3. TERMING THE PL-480 AS "AN INSTRUMENT OF US ECONOMIC AND FOREIGN POLICY" THE MOSCOW-LINING PATRIOT"BLAMED" THE INDIAN GOVERNMENT FOR "AGAIN"WANTING "TO WALK INTO ITS (US) TRAP." IT CONCLUDED: " IT IS, HOWEVER, STILL NOT TOO LATE FOR THE GOVERNMENT TO RETRACE ITS STEP AND SAVE ITSELF AND THE NATION FROM THE HUMILIATION THAT IMPORTS UNDER PL-480 INEVITABLY INVOLVE."MOYNIHAN

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Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Event:
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